Conklin In Winnipeg

J. J. Conklin

DEANNA DURBIN will make a public appearance in the Winnipeg Auditorium, when she visits Winnipeg, soon, Acting Mayor Barry of Winnipeg said.

He had heard from the Universal Picture Corporation, for whom the 14-year-old Winnipeg-born girl stars, to the effect Miss Durbin would probably be pleased to make one public appearance, although arrangements of course would have to be made through and subject to the approval of her manager.

When Deanna arrived in the city April 2, accompanied by her mother, Mrs. Ada Durbin, and her manager, it was her first visit since she left here at the age of one year. The visit was prompted, a picture official said, largely by an invitation recently extended Miss Durbin by Mayor Warriner.

* * *

RIN-TIN-TIN JR. CARRIES ON

RIN-TIN-TIN JR., son of the world-famous Alsatian Rin-Tin-Tin, a screen star in his own right, will go to Victoria, B.C., shortly to make a picture for Central Films Limited, it was announced by Kenneth J. Bishop, producer, at the company's Willow studios this week.

The leading male role in the picture, whose name and story are not yet known, will be taken by Robert ("Bob") Allen. The leading lady has not been selected. It will be the eighth movie made in Victoria by Central Films under contract for Columbia Pictures.

Production of the picture will start as soon as possible after completion of "Women Against the World" on which Central Films is currently engaged, and it is probable that the same technical crew will remain here for the new movie.

This will by no means be Mr. Bishop's first experience with dog pictures. He started fourteen years ago as owner of Lightning, famous dog star that died only two years ago. The story of how Mr. Bishop took Lightning from Staten Island, New York, where he bought him, to make a picture in Hollywood with Eileen Sedgwick, is one of the epics of movie history.

* * *

GRAND THEATRE, CALGARY SOLD

SALE of the stately Grand Theatre in Calgary, Alta., by the Lougheed Estate to the Grand Theatre Syndicate, comprising a group of Calgary business men, was confirmed by J. B. Barron, Calgary solicitor of that city.

Mr. Barron, who is managing director of Trans Canada Theatres, Limited, stated arrangements had been made whereby the theatre would be leased to Trans Canada Theatres, Limited, on June 17, by the Grand Theatre Syndicate.

Sale of the theatre was completed despite an action brought by Grand Theatre, Limited, of which K. M. Leach is president, seeking a permanent injunction restraining the sale of the theatre by the Lougheed Estate to the Grand Theatre Syndicate. No interim injunction was asked by Grand Theatres, Limited. When built the Grand cost $650,000.

British Film News

by DENNISON THORNTON

ATLANTIC FILMS are to be congratulated on having scored an unmistakable hit with their first film, "Thunder in the City", starring Edward G. Robinson.

Ian Coster, "Evening Standard" film critic, calls it "an extremely good blend of humour and sentiment". It is exactly that — and more. In my opinion it is one of the best pictures ever made in this country and should do thundering good business in Canada and the U.S.A.

Edward G. Robinson puts up a grand show as an American publicity agent who is packed off to England to acquire dignity and tone. The result is a thoroughly funny picture with a corking climax in which Robinson puts over a ballyhoo campaign that rocks London to its foundations.

"Thunder in the City" was produced by Alexander Esway, and directed by Hollywood's Marion Gering. It was an expensive production, costing well over £100,000, but from Atlantic's point of view it may be held that the money was well spent.

The picture is a slick piece of entertainment, with lots of polish and action. It will certainly bring prestige to the new company.

United Artists are distributing.

* * *

WAS HIS FACE RED!

ONE of the most promising young actors British producers have ever discovered is Romney Brent.

Mr. Brent attended a party recently and during the evening was approached by an American girl who had come over here for the Coronation.

"I though you were just marvellous in 'Three Men on a Horse' in New York", said the girl. "That ham who played it in London nearly killed the show for me". If Little Audrey had been at the party she would have laughed, and laughed and laughed. Because it was Romney Brent who played the part in the London production.

Was Romney's face red!

* * *

RENE CLAIR'S PLANS

YOU would have thought that after having made a picture like "The Ghost Goes West", the talented and astute director Rene Clair would have had his hands full making new pictures. And yet nearly a year has passed since "The Ghost" was visited upon us and nothing further has been heard from this gifted young man. At one time it was stated that he would produce "A Bicycle for Two", an Edwardian satire, for Alexander Korda. But now that subject has been assigned to Victor Saville who will do it as a grand scale musical show in color.

In the meantime the latest intelligence about Rene Clair is that he is to join Jack Buchanan's new company and that he will direct Jack in his first picture which is to be done at the Pinewood studios.

From the Buchanan point of view I think that such an arrangement would be excellent. Not since he was directed by Ernst Lubitsch in Paramount's "Monte Carlo" in Hollywood has Jack received very much help from his producers. None of his British pictures, not even the recently-shown "This'll Make You Whistle", have done justice to his talents. In the hands of a man like Rene Clair there is every reason to believe that the M. Buchanan will take on a new lease of life and that his gifts will be exploited for the benefit of the world market.

Hamilton United Theatres Increases Gross Profit Over Last Year. Reports $77,393

DIGEST REVIEWS AND PREVIEWS

"THE GOOD EARTH"

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

"Jay L."

TWO weeks ago, in an editorial on "Camille", your Editor stated that in her opinion, Garbo would receive the Academy Award for the coming year. After seeing, "The Good Earth" the other evening, I feel certain that even the Editor will retract her former vote, and admit that no one will be able to head off Miss Luise Rainer for this coveted honor. I have seen a great deal of acting in my few years of attending theatres, but never have I seen anything to compare with the performance of Luise Rainer in "The Good Earth". There are no Hollywood superlatives to amply describe her work. It is beyond words. Her "O-Lan" is the most magnificent thing I have ever watched. She is not only "O-Lan", she is "The Good Earth" itself.

THE story, by Pearl Buck, has been read by countless thousands, and there is no need for me to more than sketch it here, and to state that it has lost nothing in the screen adaptation. Owen Davis and Donald Davis adapted the novel for the stage, and from this script M-G-M obtained the screen play. The story is another "Cavalcade", taking you through the rise of the House of Wang from its humble origin to its later lofty station. It shows the trials and tribulations of the young farmer and his slave-girl bride, his thirst for land and his acquisition of this valuable asset, the two dread curses of the Chinese farmer, famine and locusts, the triangle of the "second wife", and her infidelity, and finally the death of "O-Lan".

PAUL MUNI as "Wang" lives up to the brilliant performances expected of this prominent star. His portrayal is a simple but impressive one, and above all a sincere presentation of the Chinese farmer. Charles Grapewin as "Wang's" father scores heavily, inserting a good deal of comedy into his lines, which relieves the otherwise sombre tone of the story. Walter Connolly as the rascally uncle, has a fat part, and makes the most of his opportunities. Of the native cast, Key Luke and Roland Lui, as the two sons of "Wang" contribute noteworthy performances, as do Suzanna Kim as "Wang's" daughter, and Soo Yong as his aunt. Tilly Losch scores in her few scenes as the dancing girl, whom "Wang" takes as a "second wife".

KARL FREUND, who photographed this production, deserves a special word of praise, for the photography in "The Good Earth" is in a class by itself. The opening scenes, showing the sun rising over Chinese pastoral country are like beautiful landscapes, painted by a great master.

SIDNEY FRANKLIN'S direction is also an important factor in the brilliance of this picture. His direction of the mob scene, looting the palace, is especially effective, reminding one of that unforgettable mob scene in "Fury".

SEVERAL features of "The Good Earth" are outstanding. First of all is Miss Rainer's performance. Second, I should say, is the visitation of the locusts, and the desperate efforts, finally successful, to stem the plague. Third, is the brief sequence when "Wang" and "O-Lan" are boasting of their first son, and then suddenly a cloud passes over the sun, and fearful lest their boasting offended the gods, they quickly change their tone and conversation, pleading with the gods that the child is only a girl-child, pock-marked, and worthless.

THE production has unlimited box-office possibilities. The book itself, should ensure a capacity house each performance, and the fact that the two Academy Award winners of 1936 are co-starred in this, is a guarantee for S.R.O. business. The public will want to see this picture.. even those who are not frequent theatregoers.

* * *

Imperial Theatre - Manager Tom Daley

"FIRE OVER ENGLAND"

London Film Productions

ALEXANDER KORDA'S Denham Studios contribute another picture of outstanding merit. Flora Robson, an actress little known on this side of the Atlantic, portrays the character of the Virgin Queen Bess of England in a manner that is winning approval of critics and fans throughout Great Britain, the United States and Canada. She makes Elizabeth perhaps a little more kindly character than we are accustomed to associate with her former Majesty, but nevertheless it is one that is certain to satisfy.

THE story deals with young Michael Ingolby, whose father is one of the English adventurers that made it a practise to capture the Spanish treasure ships. Ingolby Sr. and his son are captured by the Spanish in a sea-fight, and are brought to Spain. Their captor turns out to be a former friend of Michael's father, and although he must turn the elder Engishman over to the Inquisition, he succeeds in helping the youth to escape. A romance has blossomed between the Spanish Don's lovely daughter, Ileana, and Michael, but when the Englishman learns that his father was burnt at the stake, he flees from the Spaniard's domicile, denouncing both his benefactor and Ileana. Arriving, in England, Michael recounts his adventures to Elizabeth, and pledges himself to her service. Despite the pleas of his sweetheart, a lady-in-waiting to her Majesty, Michael takes on the dangerous task of returning to Spain as a spy, in order to ascertain the names of those who are plotting against the Queen's life. His masquerade is discovered, but through the help of Ileana and her husband, he again escapes, and brings back to the Queen the news of the Armada. Then follows that historic battle, in which a few dauntless Englishmen, set fire to their own ships, and let them drift into the midst of the mighty Armada, bringing about the defeat of the Spanish forces.

THE story sounds interesting, but on the screen, this reviewer found it very dull. It appears to me that the great fault of the English producers is in their choice of material for the screen. They have stars who can act, and producers and directors of unquestionable merit, but

(*Continued on Page 7*)

"Last of Mrs. Cheyney" Postpones "Maytime" Opening, Loew's, Toronto,

DIGEST REVIEWS AND PREVIEWS

(*Continued from Page 6*)

their story material is invariably weak. A few more pictures with stories such as "The Ghost Goes West", "39 Steps" and "Secret Agent", and there would be no talk of a collapse of British Film production. A picture would have to be 100 per cent perfect in every other department, to make the weakness of the plot unnoticeable, and that is a pretty tough order to fill. English writers have been turning out splendid screen material for years, if only the English producers would get as wise as the Americans and utilize this English material.

NEXT to Miss Robson's performance, Morton Selten, as the ancient Lord Burleigh gets our vote for his fine work. His characterization is as near perfect as we can imagine. Vivien Leigh as Cynthia, Michael's English sweetheart, and Tamara Desni as Ileana, both do excellent work, besides being very easy on the eyes. I did not, however, care for either Leslie Banks as Leicester or Laurence Olivier as Michael. Both performances appeared to be on the weak side. Raymond Massey, former Torontonian makes a splendid Philip of Spain, and leaves you wishing that he had been given more footage. Others in the cast worthy of special mention include Henry Oscar as the Spanish Ambassador, Herbert Lomas as Ingolby Sr., and Bobby Newton, Donald Calthrop and Robert Rendell as three Spanish grandees.

THE photography by Hollywoodite, James Wong Howe, is excellent, as is the direction of another Hollywood native, Wiliam K. Howard. Story taken from a novel by A. E. W. Mason. Erich Pommer was in charge of production, and the feature is being released in Canada by Regal Films Limited.

ONE outstanding feature of "Fire Over England" is the costuming. Eet ees magnifico. The gowns worn by Flora Robson and the other leading players will make you feel that they are absolutely correct as to detail, and their beauty and majestic appearance will provoke your admiration.

* * *

PERSONAL MUSINGS

YOUR reviewer saw two more pictures this week, which unfortunately were unable to be reviewed in this issue due to lack of space. The first was the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer four star production, "The Last of Mrs. Cheyney", starring William Powell, Joan Crawford and Robert Montgomery, with Frank Morgan. This is a remake of the former success, which starred Norma Shearer, and as may be expected from the list of stars featured, is a picture well up to the standard expected of Leo. It is light, frothy and delightful, and if Frank Morgan does steal many of the scenes, it can be forgiven, for this has long been a practise of the genial Senor Morgan. It is an even money bet, that Frank Morgan will receive a star rating before the year is out.

THE other picture is an English production, "Wings of the Morning", starring the continental favorite, Annabella, with Henry Fonda playing opposite her. The picture serves to introduce the glamorous French girl to the American public, and she is a real find. In our opinion she is one of the loveliest girls on the screen, and her acting seems to be well above the average. It will be interesting to see what England does with Annabella, now that they have "found" her.

"WINGS OF THE MORNING" was produced by Robert T. Kane, of New World Films, for 20th Century-Fox. It has enjoyed a spectacular run of 8 weeks, at His Majesty's Theatre, Montreal, where Annabella is already well known to the French-speaking population, due to her French made pictures.

* * *

STOP THE PRESS FLASH

JUST previewed RKO Radio's "Quality Street", co-starring Katharine Hepburn and Franchot Tone. The best BOX OFFICE picture Hepburn has made since "Little Women". Full review next week.

"Ray F."

* * *

RAY PRESENTS

(*Continued from Page 4*)

It is a Pandro S. Berman production, and surely he needs no other recommendation, than the information that "Winterset" — "Mary of Scotland", and for versatility, the Fred Astaire-Ginger Rogers musicals are his productions. George Nicholls, Jr., is the director.

I forgot to tell you, that in "Quality Street", Franchot Tone is a co-star with Katharine Hepburn, and, of course, you know that the author is the famous Sir James Barrie, and that this is also, a Pandro S. Berman production, the director, George Stevens.

I saw "Good Earth" at the Royal Alexandra, now in its second week. I cannot forget Luise Rainer's characterization of "O-Lan", it haunts me. Pearl Buck must have had a vision of Luise Rainer somewhere in her subconsciousness when she wrote that book, "Good Earth", or is it that Luise Rainer is not just a woman, she is all women, Eve, mother of creation, mother-earth, cradle of passive conception, the Giver and the Receiver, typical and symbolical of all women whose origin is in the soil; and whether in palace, or in cottage, these have not forgotten their Divine Heritage, these are the Womb of Life, the Mothers of God.

"Wings of the Morning" Held Over, Uptown, Toronto. Now in It's 9th

KATHARINE

HEPBURN

TWO GREAT STARS IN

"one of the most delightful pieces of entertainment of the season . . . a box-office sensation wherever it plays"
HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

★

"charming cameo of delightful entertainment . . certain box-office"
DAILY VARIETY

★

"quality production from title to fadeout . . . graceful entertainment delight"
BOX-OFFICE

★

"quaint and charming picture . . . ladies will love it . . . and men"
FILM DAILY

★

Quality Street

WITH THIS STELLAR CAST—

ERIC BLORE . . "as the flirtatious sergeant, proves a comedy treat"—Variety Daily

CORA WITHERSPOON . . "stands out in a well-defined characterization"—Variety Daily

FAY BAINTER

ESTELLE WINWOOD

FRANCHOT

TONE

FROM THE FAMOUS STAGE COMEDY BY J·M· BARRIE

DIRECTED BY GEORGE STEVENS

PANDRO S. BERMAN

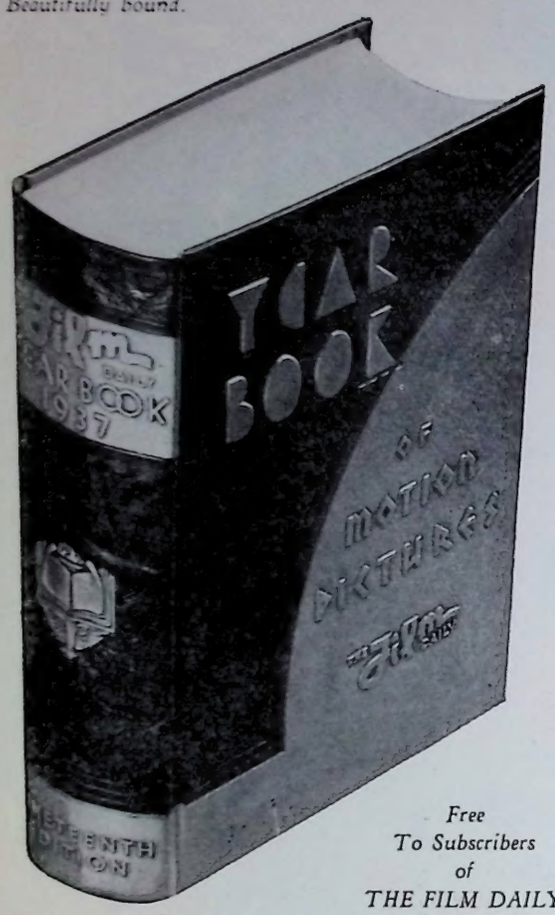
RKO RADIO PICTURES

Just Off The Press!

THE 1937 FILM DAILY YEAR BOOK of MOTION PICTURES

* * *

Weighs over 6 lbs.
Contains nearly 1,300 pages
Beautifully bound.



Free
To Subscribers
of
THE FILM DAILY

The largest and most comprehensive volume in the long series of Film Daily Year Books is now being distributed to paid subscribers of The Film Daily. The 1937 book, 19th edition, contains nearly 1,300 pages of valuable reference material. Among the many items of interest are included: **PICTURES**—16,170 titles of features released since 1915 showing distributors and Film Daily review dates; Features released during 1936 with casts and credits; Features and short subject series released during 1936, arranged by distributing companies; serials released since 1920 showing stars, directors and years of release; a list of features imported from foreign countries during 1936; a compilation showing producers and distributors of short subject series. **PERSONNEL**—Names, addresses, telephone numbers, cable addresses, officers, department heads and boards of directors of important film companies; another section with the addresses and manpower affiliated with studios and production organizations; Officers and directors of clubs, guilds and organizations associated with the motion picture industry. **PERSONALITIES**—The 1935 and 1936 work of 3,124 players, 218 producers, associate producers and supervisors; 281 directors; 809 authors; 635 screenplay writers; 181 cameramen; 196 film editors; 152 music composers and supervisors; and 27 dance directors. **LISTS**—A complete equipment Buying Guide; feature producers, short subject producers, cartoon producers, industrial producers, newsreels, theatre supply dealers, laboratories, color processes, trailers, insurance brokers, projection rooms, agents and managers, play and story brokers exchanges (including names of managers and product handled). **THEATERS**—Complete list of theaters in the United States and Canada aranged by states and provinces; separate list of circuits with four or more theaters. **FINANCIAL**—Summaries of all motion picture companies whose stocks are listed on financial markets. **FOREIGN**—Exporters and importers; outlook for 1937; international survey of film markets. **EXPLOITATION**—Complete manual of tested exploitation stunts; showman's calendar. **AGENTS' TELEPHONES** of players, directors and writers. **LEGAL** — Court decisions of 1936 compiled and digested by Herbert T. Silverberg. **BIRTHDAYS AND BIRTHPLACES** of important film folk, and 1,001 other items of interest.

Your Check for $10.00
Will Bring You This

COMPLETE SERVICE

THE FILM DAILY
Every day except Sunday, covering the news of the Industry; reviews of features and short subjects equipment; a publication every exhibitor needs.

SHORT SUBJECT QUARTERLIES
Four times a year; an issue devoted exclusively to Short Subjects, giving reviews, programs, exploitation ideas, in fact, everything about shorts.

DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL AND PRODUCTION GUIDE
Every June—A volume devoted to Production plans, activities and credits.

FILM DAILY YEAR BOOK
Filmdom's Recognized Book of Reference. Nearly thirteen hundred pages covering every branch of the industry.

THE FILM DAILY
1501 Broadway, New York City

Dear Sir:

Please enter my subscription to the FILM DAILY, and The Film Daily Service.
I enclose $10.00 (foreign $15.00).

NAME .....

STREET .....

CITY..... PROV.....

RADIO FILM DIGEST

by JAMES LEWIS SMITH

THE DIGEST has received several letters confirming our statement of last week in regard to the excellence of the Kraft Music Hall program. We quote one of these letters.

"Dear Mr. Smith:— I most heartily agree with your comments concerning Bing Crosby's Music Hall broadcast. It is one of the best programs on the air. There are two young children in our family, one little girl aged eight, and one boy a year older. On Thursday nights my wife and I permit the children to stay up until eleven o'clock in order to hear Bing Crosby and Bob Burns. It is better than having a family row every week. The whole family, myself included, consider Bob Burns the best comedian on the air, and Bing Crosby the best Master of Ceremonies. It is a pity, however, that the program comes on so late. Sincerely yours, S. J. Johnson, Williamsburg, Ont."

Many thanks, Mr. Johnson, for your letter, we also share your feelings about Bing and Bob. They're "tops".

* * *

MRS. FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT, wife of the President of the United States, returns to the NBC network, for Ponds creams, late in April. Her forthcoming programs will be heard over the NBC-Blue Network on Wednesdays at 7.15 P.M., starting April 21.

* * *

KEN MURRAY, and his incomparable stooge, Oswald, have returned to the air after a far-too-long absence. The comedian, Oswald, Lud Gluskin and His Orchestra, with Shirley Ross and Marlyn Stuart as vocalists, replaced the popular Burns and Allen combine, last Wednesday evening, for Campbell Soups. Murray was better than ever, and to this columnist at least, it was certainly a treat to hear that familiar "Oh-h-h yeah" once again. This program bids fair to becoming a real top-notcher in entertainment.

* * *

THE call of the open road will take Pepper Young's Family away from threats of kidnaping, family quarrels, disputes over legacies and secret elopements —during the summer months, at least. Elaine Sterne Carrington, prolific author of the popular script show, has planned her script so as to allow the family to make plans for a nation-wide trailer tour. This popular feature is heard over the NBC-Red Network, Mondays through Fridays at 3.00 P.M., and over the NBC-Blue Network on the same days at 10.30 A.M.

* * *

CLARK GABLE, Metro - Goldwyn - Mayer star, will make one of his rare microphone appearances when he stars in a radio adaptation of Ernest Hemingway's novel and subsequent film, "Farewell to Arms", on the Lux Radio Theatre program, this coming Monday, April 5, from 9.00 to 10.00 P.M., EST.

Gable will be supported by Adolphe Menjou in his original role of Major Renaldi, and Josephine Hutchinson as the nurse. Gable will play the part of Lieutenant Frederick Henry, the American ambulance driver serving with the Italian forces during the World War. The role was played by Gary Cooper in the screen version.

SHIFTING to the NBC-Blue Network and to the new broadcasting time of 8.00 to 9.00 P.M., EST, the General Motors Promenade Concerts series begins on Sunday night, April 4. The Promenade Concerts are the Spring program of the General Motors Concerts. Lily Pons, coloratura soprano, and John Brownlee, baritone, both members of the Metropolitan Opera, will be the soloists on the opening program of the Promendade series.

* * *

NEWS continues to pour into this office in regard to to the Columbia Broadcasting System's plans for airing the Coronation of King George VI. During the actual ceremonies, CBS wil have two exclusive microphones stategically placed. One will be outside Buckingham Palace to record the King and Queen's departure from the Abbey and their triumphant return. Another will be placed near the west door of Westminster Abbey, through which the royal couple will enter and leave.

Other commentators will be stationed at points of vantage all along the processional route, and within the Abbey itself. On the ride to the Abbey, microphones at the Victoria Memorial monument, at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, and outside the Abbey will bring a vivid description of the pageantry.

The climax of a day of almost continuous trans-Atlantic broadcasting over the most gigantic network ever assembled in the history of radio, will be the King's official greeting to his 400,000,000 subjects in every corner of the world. This will be heard over the Columbia network at approximately 3.00 P.M., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

The broadcast is being made possible through the co-operation of the British Broadacting System. The CBS delegation is to be headed by Paul White, director of Special Events, and will include Bob Trout.

* * *

Lily Pons, lovely star of RKO Radio Pictures, and the Metropolitan Opera, who is to guest-star on the opening program of the General Motors Promenade Concerts, Sunday, April 4th.

Press Reports a Radio and Film War — A Case of Robbing Peter

WASHINGTON FILM DIGEST

(Special To The Digest By George W. Mehrtens, Columbia Trade Press Staff Correspondent)

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 30—(CTP)

VIGOROUSLY defending charges of impropriety hurled by a fellow Illinois representative, Congressman Church, a Republican, Congressman Adolph Sabath, chairman of the special committee investigating real estate bondholders, and dean of the lower house, collapsed upon the house floor, yesterday during the course of a heated debate. Sabath is chairman of the special committee which has been looking into the inside workings of the Paramount and RKO bankrupticies.

As Sabath clutched the speaker's stand to keep from falling, two members of his committee, Representatives O'Malley, Democrat of Wisconsin, and Fuller, Democrat of Arkansas, jumped forward and led the veteran member from the House Chamber. Subsequently his office told Canadian Moving Picture Digest he was "very much improved". In course of his long defense he made no specific mention to the all-important Motion Picture cases which are expected to come up again in a short while.

Immediately following Sabath's speech, Congressman Church issued a prepared statement charging that none of his previous charges against the special investigating Committee had been directly answered or denied by Sabath. Church declared that the answer to the bankruptcy situation today is to "legislate not to investigate". Church is working on a bankruptcy reform bill of his own. Hearings are scheduled to open on the Sabath bankruptcy reform bill tomorrow, before the House Judiciary Committee.

* * *

EXHIBITION PERMITS INCREASED

A REPORT has been received from Assistant Commercial Attache Leys A. France, at Vienna, stating that the recent film decree of February 7th, increased the cost of exhibition permits for foreign features and most shorts by 25%.

According to Mr. Nathan D. Golden, chief of the Motion Picture Section, Electrical Division of the United States Department of Commerce, French films, which in accordance with an agreement covering the mutual interchange of films between the two countries, for some time had been exempt from payment of exhibition permits, were also included in the new regulations.

Since the Austrian market is not profitable for the showing of French Films if subject to payment of contingent fees, especially after a 25% increase, the film authorities of that country announce their withdrawal from Austria as soon as the features being currently exhibited, which were licensed for showing before the new regulations went into effect, have completed their play-dates.

Films of United States origin, Mr. Golden points out, are also subject to the new 25% increase. Their activities will be somewhat curtailed if present restriction are continued in force.

At the same time Mr. Golden reports that Reich Film Chamber has recently released statistics showing the number and size of film theatres in Germany as of December 31, 1936. According to the Film Chamber's compilation there were at the end of the year 5,302 cinemas in Germany having a combined seating capacity off 1,943,-049. Of these 2,316 with 1,195,906 seats were playing daily. As compared with the last previous estimate the statistics indicate an increase of 29.

* * *

MORE BLOCK-BOOKING NEWS

A SPECIAL legislative report of special public groups interested in the Pettengill-Nealy block booking measure, revealed this week no request for action on the measure is anticipated until after the Supreme Court plan hearings are completed before the Senate Judiciary Committee, and the food and drug and Federal Trade Commission bills are ironed out in the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee.

The bulletin, revealed by Abram F. Myers, head of the Allied States Association, emphasizes duplication of membership in the Senate Judiciary and Interstate Commerce Committees, thus barring the possibility of hearings in the immediate future. The Bulletin adds "the time factor is less urgent this year than last since all bills not passed at this session automatically carry over to the second or final session of the seventy-fifth congress".

Further indication of no immediate action on the important block-booking legislation came later in the week when Congressman Pettengill himself told the Canadian Moving Picture Digest that he had been "too submerged with Supreme Court issue", to even reply to letters on the problem. Congressman Pettengill, by the way, is one of the House leaders opposing President Roosevelt's Supreme Court proposal. Pettengill has been unable to set any approximate date for possible action on the part of the committee concerning his bill.

* * *

LOEW'S INC. BUYS FROM FOX

TWENTIETH CENTURY-FOX Film Corporation this week filed notice with the Securities and Exchange Commission of sale to Loew's Incorporated during February 1937 of 50% of the outstanding stock of United American Investing Corporation and assigned to Loew's Inc. $2,097,025.90 representing 50% of credits owing by United American Investing Corporation to 20th Century-Fox. In addition 20th Century-Fox announced declaration of a trust in favor of Loew's Inc in 2449 shares of the "A" (voting and fully paid and non-assessable) shares of Metropolis, and Bradford Trust Co. Ltd. owned by 20th Century-Fox.

Theatre Equipment
and
COMPLETE SUPPLIES

Projectors and Parts.
Motor Generators.
Sound Screens.
Lenses, Carbons, etc.

Coleman Electric Co.
258 Victoria St.
TORONTO, ONT.

EVERYTHING FOR THE THEATRE FROM SHEET TO STREET

First Ukrainian Picture Operetta at Madison, Toronto, Makes Hit. Toronto Girl, Star.

BRITISH FILM DIGEST

(Special To The Digest by Ward Shaftesbury, London Correspondent)

I WAS interested to hear that Sir Frederick O'Connor, who is the author of "The Frontier and Beyond" has joined the Board of Directors of Franklin-Granville Expeditionary Limited. This company specializes in travel, big game and tropical films and is planning the screening of O'Connor's exciting story. Shooting will take place in Nepal and Tibet. The film will be in colour which is certainly a new departure for this type of picture.

* * *

THIS trend towards a more genuine kind of picture-making pleases me — I like the idea of films being actually shot in the natural locale instead of in overheated studios against the artificial background of badly-painted sets. In this regard, I just heard that Neville Clark Productions are making two pictures in Ceylon — "Tea Leaves In The Wind" and "Singapore Police" — the scenes will be exteriors for the most part, and very rich in local colour.

* * *

THE Nazis are anything if not thorough. Apparently they took 250 miles of film at the Olympic Games at Berlin last year. Complete projection of the film would take about a fortnight. There's no cause for alarm however because editing cut the thing down to a small mattter of about 18,000 feet and the final document will be shown in two parts. The Premiere will be in Berlin in a couple of months.

* * *

I HEAR that there's a big building boom in Dublin at present — nine new cinemas erected recently — 14,000 extra seats in the last few years brings the 41 cinemas in Dublin up to a total seating capacity of over 45,000 — four new ones are now under construction. Talk about Redundancy!

* * *

M-G-M'S "The Last of Mrs. Cheyney" was enthusiastically received by the Trade last Wednesday when it had its first London presentation at the Phoenix. One critic summed it up shortly and sweetly when he wrote— "Put over to the tune of piquant situations, with sparkling dialogue and amusing satire at expense of 'upper ten', story moves against lavish backgrounds and is superlatively acted by strong cast. Scintillating light entertainment with obvious stellar pull."

I HAVE just learned of John Drinkwater's tragic death. It is certainly saddening to hear of the passing of one so fine, so brilliant at the early age of fifty-one. I just recently saw the trade show of his "The King's People" which was devised by Warner's as a special coronation attraction for release on May 10th. Drinkwater had worked hard on this picture — he had brought together in it such famous personalities as Lady Astor, the late Sir Austen Chamberlain and G. B. Shaw (who, by the way, is a frequent visitor to Wardour Street these days).

* * *

APPARENTLY the news about the G-B deal did little to dampen the ardour of the boys and girls at the big Gaumont-British Carnival Ball which was held at Albert Hall last week. About five thousand people were present and the highlight of the evening was an all-star cabaret (and were they good!). The music was peppy enough but the dancing was, as always, mighty crowded — not much room for trucking it or swing time, I'm afraid; still the old two-step was good enough for most of the lads and the fact that some of the gorgeouser stars were present did much to ease the pain of much-stepped-on feet.

* * *

BEING an old Toronto boy myself, I was very interested to read this bit of news in "Tatler's" column in the Daily Film Renter. I shall quote it verbatim: — "Always a pleasure to hear of British films overseas, and a letter I had from the manager of the Uptown Theatre, one of the most important in Toronto, seating three thousand, enclosing a cutting of a big advertisement that appears in the local paper, advertising Jessie Matthews in "Head Over Heels" and "The Woman Alone", certainly gave me a kick. In a chatty epistle the gentleman in question says British Films are frequently shown at his theatre — I know the Uptown well, and it's really a fine house. Long may they continue to show British Films." But here's the part that I liked about "Tatler's" remarks — "Incidentally I was vastly amused by the amusement page which he sends along and which as I say contains a very big advertisement for the two films mentioned above. It's completely taken up the announcements of the kinemas, theatres, dance halls, etc. — except for a single inch, which contains a news item about some bloke who was committed to trial for murdering his brother-in-law!" Better take it up with my friend, the Star, Tatler, old man.

* * *

WELL, that's about all the news for this week—heard from America that Loew's have acquired approximately half of Twentieth Century-Fox's interest in its investment in the Metropolis and Bradford Trust — the deal is supposed to involve a little matter of about three and a half million dolars. I also heard that Sir John Simon is investigating "horrific" films with a view to labelling them with a certificate "H"! — and that the battle is still raging over the rightness or wrongness of "Green Pastures", the Warner film getting lots of lovely free publicity in the meantime. Apart from all this there is nothing much to talk about except the fact that I tried to catch up on my screenings by going to see "Wings of the Morning" at a private showing the other night and enjoyed it thoroughly. I don't need to tell you that Annabella is my idea of 'tops' in beauty as well as acting and from all the rumours that are floating about this scribe's ears, the little French lady is going places — Hollywood places of course. Well, I for one would like to see England hold on to her for a while longer.

* * *

THEATRE WANTED
Have you a theatre for sale in Toronto or Ontario? Apply
BOX 7 — DIGEST

Royalty and Aristocracy of England Get Treat Viewing "Three Smart Girls",

AUSTRALIAN FILM DIGEST

BY LEON STONE

TWO new local film companies recently registered under capital of £100,000, may help to bolster up the serious depression in the Film Quota caused by the timidity — outside of Cinesound, National, Columbia, Expeditionary, Barrier Reef, Commonwealth — of picture production organizations to get going, and the general public to sink its cash in such concerns.

Argosy Films has Frederick Daniel (production manager for National's "Flying Doctor") and Noel Monkman on the directorate, so should prove a ound proposition. Company is for the purpose of getting behind Monkman's feature picture "Typhoon Treasure", production of which has been scheduled for sometime soon. Monkman is well known here for a very successful series of special natural science and educational shorts filmed on the Great Barrier Reef.

Other company is Fig Tree Studios registered for £50,000 capital. To "operate as studio proprietors for the production of motion pictures". They will take over the Mastercraft-Eftee studios left vacant by the sudden death of W. Thring on his return from the U.S.A. Everything was in readiness for M-E to go into production with Quota Films, following the removal from Melbourne of Eftee Films plant, but the death of Thring killed this.

* * *

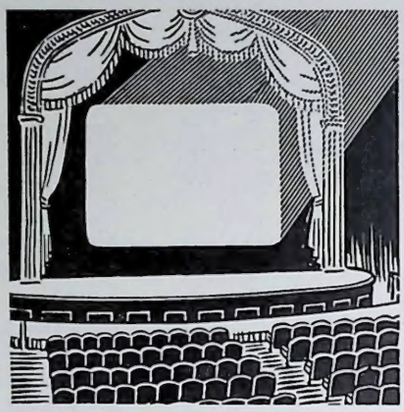
CINESOUND has swung into outdoor location work on the first from its studios under its 1937 production banner. Company of actors, cameramen and technical crews have been busy in the Gloucester district of New South Wales (where the exteriors of "Rangle River" were photographed) shooting "Tall Timber". Ken Hall is directing. One of the big scenes of the picture will be made there, when a complete mountain-side of trees will be felled by dynamiting in a giant timber drive. Biggest battery of cameras yet set-up by Cinesound on any of their productions will catch this sequence.

* * *

ATHENAEUM Theatre, Melbourne, has reopened for business, following a shut down to allow of extensive renovations and remodelling, involving a big financial outlay. Special interest attaches to this theatre as it originally ran as a complete all-British film screening house; the first in the world to present dual bills and support of entirely British pictures.

DESPITE the edict by the New South Wales Film Trade Board that the free gift racket at all suburban and country theatres throughout the State must positively cease from January 1st, several instances of theatres flouting this rule have come before the Board's notice. The Motion Picture Distributors and Exhibitors Ass'ns are investigating and will take action just as soon as they collect all the facts.

The F.T.B. is out to stamp out the giveaway racket — which was threatening to assume alarming proportions as it has in America — for good and for all. Despite this temporary setback the Board is confident it will wind up matters before long. Free gifts now constitute a contravention of the minimum admission clause in film hire contracts. This will be used as the wedge to entirely disseminate the racket.



Modernize *Your* Theatre *with* . . .

RUBBER CARPETING

HEERWAGEN ACOUSTIC TILE

Northern Electric MIRROPHONIC SOUND SYSTEMS

RCA Magic Voice SOUND SYSTEMS

PYRENE AUTOMATIC FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

HURLEY SOUND SCREENS

322

Plus all other electrical equipment for theatres;

Dominion Sound Equipment Limited

Head Office: 1620 Notre Dame Street West, Montreal

BRANCHES AT: HALIFAX TORONTO WINNIPEG REGINA CALGARY VANCOUVER

B.B.C. Will Pay Toscanini $15,000. For Ten Concerts — He Gets Twice That In America